

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~
~~Security Information~~

17 April 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Career Service Board
FROM: Chairman, CIA Honor Awards Board
SUBJECT: Honor Awards Board Activities

25X1A 1. The CIA Honor Awards Board, established by CIA Regulation [] on 20 February 1953 has been activated and has held two meetings to date.

25X1A 2. Topics for discussion at these meetings were for the most part organizational and procedural. As a result of these discussions, the Board has prepared a draft Notice (Tab A) which, if approved, will rescind CIA Notice [] "Establishment of the CIA Honor Awards Program". The prepared draft will elaborate upon Notice [] and will conform with paragraph 2.b.1. of Regulation No. [] which states that the CIA Honor Awards Board will be responsible for "ensuring that the details of the CIA Honor Awards Program are brought to the attention of all Agency personnel". 25X1A

25X1A 3. The Board is now developing standards for honor awards presently available to CIA. It will withhold recommendation on the few cases already submitted until such standards have been developed. Weekly meetings are being held, and it is expected that these standards will be completed shortly.

4. The present status of the National Security Medal (See Executive Order and President's letter, Tab B, attached) was the subject of a memorandum to the DCI on 8 April 1953 (Tab C, attached). The Department of Defense is presently acting on the DCI's letter of 14 March 1953, regarding the design of the medal, and the precedence to be accorded it.

5. Other matters considered by the Board included internal procedures for handling recommendations, the need for permanent records on case proceedings of the Board, and the design of the National Security Medal. The Board also discussed the desirability of creating a system of awards internally controlled by CIA that may be awarded more liberally to CIA personnel than the two awards presently available.

6. Recommendation: That the attached proposed Notice [] (Tab A) be approved for publication.

/s/

25X1A9A

Chairman

CIA Honor Awards Board

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

NOTICE

PERSONNEL
April 1953

CIA HONOR AWARDS PROGRAM

1. In accordance with Regulation No. [] dated 20 February 1953 the Agency may grant honor awards to CIA personnel who perform acts of valor or exemplary achievement in the national security interest. To this end, the CIA Honor Awards Board has been created to set the standards for Agency awards, and to make recommendations to the Director for his approval.

2. The principle of recognizing individuals for deeds performed above and beyond the call of duty is traditional. Deeds requiring a high order of personal courage have been and will be performed by CIA personnel who are engaged in the support of United States intelligence activities. Similarly, CIA individuals have made and will make singularly important and highly significant contributions of a nonvalorous nature to the national intelligence effort. Although the anonymity demanded by our profession militates against overt forms of recognition, certain honor awards are available which will meet security considerations so that deserving personnel may receive special recognition.

3. Awards Presently Available

a. National Security Medal

On 19 January 1953, the President, by Executive Order 10431, established the National Security Medal to be awarded for outstanding contribution to the United States intelligence effort. The medal will be awarded for "exceptionally meritorious service performed

TAB A

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~
~~Security Information~~

in a position of high responsibility" or for "an act of valor requiring personal courage of a high degree and complete disregard of personal safety". The medal may be awarded to civilians or to military personnel.

b. Medal of Freedom

On 6 July 1945 (amended 5 April 1952) the President, by Executive Orders 9586 and 10336, established the Medal of Freedom to be awarded for performance of a meritorious act or service which

(1) has aided the United States or an ally in time of war against an enemy or enemies.

(2) during any period of national emergency has furthered the interests of the security of the United States or its allies, or

(3) under special circumstance, has furthered the interests of the security of the United States without regard to the existence of a state of war or national emergency.

The Medal of Freedom may not be awarded for any act or service performed within the continental limits of the United States nor to a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

c. Military Awards

Active duty military personnel assigned to or detailed to the Agency may be recommended for appropriate military awards. In general, civilians and reserve personnel not on active military duty are not eligible for military awards.

- 2 -

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

TAB A

~~SECRET~~
Security Information

4. Submission of Nominations

- a. Nominations for Honor Awards may originate at any administrative echelon.
- b. All nominations shall be forwarded to the CIA Honor Awards Board through the Executive Secretary, CIA Career Service Board with endorsement by the appropriate Assistant Director or Office head. Nominations affecting CIA military personnel will be coordinated by the CIA Honor Awards Board with the Military Personnel Division of the Personnel Office.
- c. Each nomination shall be submitted either on AGO Form 638 "Recommendation for Award - Meritorious Achievement or Service" or AGO Form 639 "Recommendation for Award - Heroism" (available from Executive Secretary) and should be accompanied by supporting data, if necessary, so as to afford the Board sufficient information on which to base its recommendations.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

WALTER REID WOLF
Deputy Director
(Administration)

25X1A

Rescinds: CIA Notice ☐

- 3 -

~~SECRET~~

TAB A

C O P Y

(From the

FEDERAL REGISTER

Volume 18, Number 14

Washington, Thursday, January 22, 1953

page 437)

EXECUTIVE ORDER 10431

National Security Medal

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the armed forces of the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. There is hereby established a medal to be known as the National Security Medal with accompanying ribbons and appurtenances. The medal and its appurtenances shall be of appropriate design, approved by the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.

2. The National Security Medal may be awarded to any person, without regard to nationality, including members of the armed forces of the United States, for distinguished achievement or outstanding contribution on or after July 26, 1947, in the field of intelligence relating to the national security.

3. The decoration established by the order shall be awarded by the President of the United States or, under regulations approved by him, by such person or persons as he may designate.

4. No more than one National Security Medal shall be awarded to any one person, but for subsequent services justifying an award, a suitable device may be awarded to be worn with the medal.

5. Members of the armed forces of the United States who are awarded the decoration established by this order are authorized to wear the medal and the ribbon symbolic of the award, as may be authorized by uniform regulations approved by the Secretary of Defense.

6. The decoration established by this order may be awarded posthumously.

HARRY S. TRUMAN

THE WHITE HOUSE,
January 19, 1953

RAB B

C O P Y

(From the

FEDERAL REGISTER

Volume 18, Number 14

Washington, Thursday, January 22, 1953

pages 437 and 439)

EXECUTIVE ORDER 10431

* * *

Regulations Governing the Award of
the National Security Medal

Pursuant to Paragraph 2 of Executive Order 10431, the following regulations are hereby issued to govern the award of the National Security Medal:

1. The National Security Medal may be awarded to any person without regard to nationality, including a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, who, on or after 26 July 1947, has made an outstanding contribution to the National Intelligence effort. This contribution may consist of either exceptionally meritorious service performed in a position of high responsibility or of an act of valor requiring personal courage of a high degree and complete disregard of personal safety.

2. The National Security Medal with accompanying ribbon and appurtenances, shall be of appropriate design to be approved by the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.

3. The National Security Medal shall be awarded only by the President or his designee for that purpose.

4. Recommendations may be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council by any individual having personal knowledge of the facts of the exceptionally meritorious conduct or act of valor of the candidate in the performance of outstanding services, either as an eyewitness or from the testimony of others who have personal knowledge or were eyewitnesses. Any recommendations shall be accompanied by complete documentation, including where necessary, certificates, affidavits or sworn transcripts of testimony. Each recommendation for an award shall show the exact status, at the time of the rendition of the service on which the recommendation is based, with respect to citizenship, employment, and all other material factors, of the person who is being recommended for the National Security Medal.

TAB B

5. Each recommendation shall contain a draft of an appropriate citation to accompany the award of the National Security Medal.

Approved:

HARRY S. TRUMAN
January 19, 1953

[F. R. Doc. 53-785; Filed, Jan. 19, 1953; 4:09 p.m.]

C O P Y

~~RESTRICTED~~
~~Security Information~~

19 January 1953

Dear Mr. Director:

Pursuant to Executive Order 10431 signed by me this date, I hereby authorize you to make awards of the National Security Medal in accordance with the attached regulations, which I hereby approve.

You are also authorized to prepare for the President's approval such further rules and regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of Executive Order 10431, as may be necessary from time to time to accomplish its purposes.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Harry Truman

Honorable Walter B. Smith
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C.

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~~Security Information~~

TAB B

C O P Y

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~
~~Security Information~~

8 April 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
THROUGH: Chairman, CIA Career Service Board
SUBJECT: National Security Medal

1. The attached memorandum for the record (Attachment A) in respect to the National Security Medal sets forth action taken by the Secretary of Defense relative to the two requests made in the Director's letter of 14 March 1953.

2. The Director's request for assistance in securing designs for the National Security Medal has been referred to the Department of the Army which has directed the Office of the Quartermaster General to prepare designs, sketches and models for the approval of this Agency. (Attachment B.)

3. The request that the Secretary of Defense establish precedence of the National Security Medal in relation to military decorations has resulted in a proposal that the National Security Medal be worn immediately following U. S. military decorations and preceding U. S. service medals. The Honor Awards Board has determined that this proposal which is enunciated in the draft directive to the military departments from the Department of Defense (Attachment C) is in consonance with the generally accepted policy of the Armed Services with respect to non-military decorations worn with the uniform.

4. The Honor Awards Board has taken cognizance of the above and other matters at its meeting on 7 April, minutes of which will be forwarded in the near future.

/s/



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Chairman, CIA Honor Awards Board

Attachments

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TAB C